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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the Eastern Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICE
WINTHROP, IOWA

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES ON A WILDLIFE PROJECT, WITH NOTES ON BANDING BIRDS*

By MRS. W. C. DELONG

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SHENANDOAH, IOWA

I have wanted to get people in my home community interested in birds; and it does seem, sometimes, as though I'm succeeding.

On certain occasions, in my schoolroom, I've hypnotized birds by putting them on their backs so they would lie mesmerized and quiescent to be banded. And I've realized the intentness of the students—my own intentness—and I've wondered fleetingly just who was hypnotizing whom!

My husband, who at one time didn't appreciate a Phoebe waking him up at five o'clock a.m. with his "phoe-be," now goes out before haying and checks the meadows for Dickcissel nests, putting up markers to warn the mowers. My son, who at one time was interested only in sports, now hurries our guests out to the pasture to get a glimpse of the hard-to-find Grasshopper Sparrow's nest. A number of my fellow teachers have risen at five in the morning to tramp ferned ravines with me, looking for Towhees. And one morning when two of my women friends were down on their knees in sleazy housecoats, peering into a vine-tangled hedgerow for a glimpse of a migrating thrush, neighbors spotted me with them and exclaimed in horror: "Just look! The Bird Lady won't even let those poor women get dressed before she's got them out chasing birds!"

But what we've learned—and the knowledge we share with one another—"town" women, country women, farmers, businessmen, school children . . . We join to take the annual Audubon Christmas bird census; a few of us whisk off on a trip to the Lake of the Ozarks to attend the state meeting of Audubon Society; once three of us journeyed to the Rockies to hear the Hermit Thrush sing!

In school, bird study invades the English and literature classes. Lately bird-banding has been an interest. Traps for birds have been set up near the schoolhouse where they can be watched from the school window.

Since January, 1956, in ten months' time, we have banded 25 different species, making a total of 90 birds. Many children had never seen such common species as the Catbird, Chickadee, or even a wren before we started to bring them to school.

There are always interesting surprises when banding birds. For instance, last winter on March 1st, when we were trying to induce Cedar Waxwings to enter our traps by luring them with the red berries of the multi-flora rose, we caught a Mockingbird instead. Mockingbirds are rare in this part of the country, even in summer. And the last week of September, when temperature was in the 90's, we caught a Yellow-breasted Chat, a bird of the dense shrubs and vine tangles. It had been attracted by the splashing of the water in the trap. This was the first good view that I, as well as the children, had ever had of a Yellow-breasted Chat. A surprising thing was that it was caught a few days later in the same place!

During the year the children have been privileged to watch me hold in my hands some unusual birds—birds, as a rule, seen only by experienced bird-watchers: a Nashville Warbler with its white eye-ring, clear, bright-yellow underparts and gray head; an Orange-crowned Warbler with indistinct dusking streaking on its underparts; a tiny Ruby-crowned Kinglet with an erectile scarlet crown patch. One day last fall we had a beautiful White-crowned Sparrow and a mature Harris' Sparrow in the room

* A project in the Lamoni Public Schools and Lamoni community at Lamoni, Iowa.



WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

This bird was banded on December 1, 1956, repeated six times during the winter and returned to the trap during a snowstorm in March, 1957.

at the same time to compare and study. In November a boy brought in a dead Le Conte's Sparrow he had found in the yard. The Le Conte's is, I think, the most beautiful of all our small sparrows. We saw several of these interesting sparrows among the rushes and reeds of our town's "Home Pond."

The children watched me band the following birds: wrens, Cardinals, Blue Jays, Catbirds, Chickadees, Robins, Juncos, Cowbirds, Flickers, Downy Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, nuthatches, Brown Thrashers, Starlings, grackles, warblers, kinglets, Lincoln's Sparrows, White-throated, White-crowned, and Harris' Sparrows; a Mockingbird, a chat, and a migrating shrike. As the children studied the different birds and the markings that distinguish them from one another, their eyes grew sharp. One day they were sharp enough to recognize they had something different among the House Sparrows that were in the trap at the time. It was the nondescript, female Indigo Bunting, one of the most uniformly colored of all our sparrow-like birds and difficult to identify; however, the children, looking at the wing and tail of the bird, discerned the distinguishing blue feathers. They turned the sparrows loose and brought me the Indigo Bunting.

One harrowing experience involved a case of mistaken identity. A friend and amateur bird-watcher, Ruby we call her, had a wonderful grove of Russian olive trees. A flock of wintering Robins, a flock of Cedar Waxwings, and a lone Mockingbird lived there all winter, feasting on the olives. We had set up some traps there which Ruby watched for me while I was teach-



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ing my classes. If she caught something special, she would put it in a cage and bring it down to the classroom for me to band.

One morning she called to tell me that she had caught two birds, a junco and another one that she thought was a Mockingbird. "He seems to want to get in with the junco," she told me, laughing a little at the vagaries of birds.

We were both elated over the Mockingbird which we had previously caught, and I supposed from her description this was another. Since we had only one carrying-cage, I told Ruby to put the bird in the cage with the junco and bring it to school. As soon as I saw them I knew we had nearly made a fatal mistake—fatal, at least, for the junco. "Oh my goodness! We'll have to get him out of there!" I exclaimed. I reached in as fast as I could to remove the junco. For our Mockingbird was no Mockingbird at all, but



A MOCKINGBIRD IN THE HAND

a flesh-eating bird that much resembles him—the shrike! No wonder he had been eager to get to the junco in the trap.

A person who handles birds has to be careful, for some birds are terrific biters—the Chickadee, particularly, and the Cardinal. One experience impressed that on my mind vividly. I was instructing my class that it was wise to wear gloves when banding birds. I was banding a Cardinal with a glove on only my left hand at the time. I gestured toward the bird and rather expected it to peck at me. Apparently it decided to illustrate my point more graphically; it caught the finger of my right hand and held on. With one hand holding the bird and the other being held by the bird, I suffered not only chagrin but pain before I got loose. That was one time I felt that a bird in the hand was not worth two in the bush!

There are other times when it is not such unalloyed joy to let them go. Often I feel a certain reluctance when I release a bird, after study or banding. Perhaps for some time it has lain in my hand hypnotized while I worked with it or talked of it sympathetically. Then I turn it over on its back, carry it to an opened window. I wait for it to recover its sense of equilibrium. It takes off like a bullet, as though taking advantage of some momentary carelessness in its captor.

Many birds return to my traps, and some of them quite frequently. I have had the same Chickadee return three times in a day. A White-crowned Sparrow banded on December 1, 1956, repeated six times that winter and returned to my trap again during the big March snowstorm the last week in March, 1957. Perhaps they are not just careless but curious about the strange people who like to watch them. Perhaps they are as hypnotized by people as we are by the birds!

THE PRAIRIE FALCON IN THE SIOUX CITY AREA

By WILLIAM YOUNGWORTH

3119 East Second St.
SIOUX CITY, IOWA

Over the years I have noticed that, although many of our local and migratory hawks seem to have been depleted in numbers by hunters or by having their nesting habitat destroyed, the Prairie Falcon seems to be holding its own quite well. The inaccessible nesting sites of this solitary hawk probably account for its continued existence. The mountains and the badlands west of the Missouri River are its summer home and there it rears its young in safety. It formerly bred east of the Missouri River in one area of South Dakota, but there are no recent records of breeding.

Most, if not all, of the Prairie Falcons leave the mountains in the west and north and retire south and east to spend the winters in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Kansas. It is then that we occasionally see this pale, sandy-colored falcon in the farm areas, or less often in the urban sections. The first fall records are as early as October in some years, but in other years they are not found until November. The December and January records are often birds which have become settled for the winter, if we can say that of a wandering hawk. The falcons often remain about tall buildings where there is a supply of pigeons, or about stockyards where pigeons, Starlings and House Sparrows abound, or even near high loess bluffs where House Sparrows roost in old Bank Swallow nests. During the last 25 years I have observed Prairie Falcons wintering in the above situations in Sioux City.

My most puzzling Prairie Falcon record was made on August 31, 1949, near Larrabee, Cherokee County, while I was on a field trip to the Wanata State Forest near Peterson, Iowa. A beautifully marked, adult bird was seen perched on a high-line pole. It allowed rather close approach, so the

identity could not be questioned, but the date was rather early. On returning home I searched Bent's Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, Part 2, and learned that the migration in fall sometimes starts in August and September, so my August record was not too far out of line.

From 1934 to 1947, the late Dr. T. C. Stephens sent me three specimens of the Prairie Falcon, either killed or found dead by people in Sioux City. One had been wintering on the clock tower of the old Federal Building. It lived on the flock of pigeons and was picked up dead on the roof one morning. I made two of these specimens into study skins for Dr. Stephens. The third specimen was a nicely plumaged bird, but decomposition had begun and it could not be saved.

The occurrence of the Prairie Falcon at Sioux City is not too common, illustrated by the fact that from 1934 to 1957 I have had 20 records in or very close to the city limits. One record is from Hornick, Woodbury County; another is from Salix, Woodbury County; and two records are from Plymouth County. Other Iowa records are the above-mentioned Cherokee County record and a recent one near Paullina, O'Brien County, on November 12, 1957. This latter bird was carrying a small rodent as it flew over me. Outside of Iowa, but near Sioux City, I have the following records: on November 2, 1946, three of these falcons were seen in Charles Mix County, South Dakota. One was seen to take a stoop attack on a flying pheasant hen, but without scattering any feathers. On December 8, 1946, two falcons were seen in Bon Homme County, South Dakota.

My conclusions are that this interesting falcon of the western badlands and mountains, which nests in rather inaccessible places, is still present in our fauna in rather constant numbers. Although never a common hawk such as the Marsh Hawk or Sparrow Hawk, it is probably holding its numbers better than the Marsh Hawk. In northwest Iowa we can expect to find it during fall and winter in the rare, but probably regular, category. Usually we have to look far afield to find it, and then it will be a solitary bird like the Northern Shrike. Occasionally, to our great pleasure, we find the Prairie Falcon in the heart of a large city or about the grain elevators in a small town.

BIRDS IN OUR BACK YARD

By MRS. CARL PROESCHOLDT
LISCOMB, IOWA

I could have counted on my fingers the birds I knew when we moved to our home in central Iowa. If ever I mentioned birds, it was vaguely of a brown thrush, a turtle dove, or a rain-bird. I had never heard of warblers, or kinglets, or even vireos, and as for recognizing bird songs—I hardly even heard them except occasionally to comment upon a "pretty bird song."

Our slightly overgrown two acres on the edge of a little town is an embryonic bird sanctuary, with its trees, bushes and weedy pasture. Soon I was hearing new "pretty bird songs." It was spring-time and my eyes were awakening along with my ears. Although I hardly knew spring migration except as a term in a book, I became aware that here were birds entirely new to me.

About that time Edwin Way Teale's "Circle of the Seasons" was published. I read it avidly, for here was the kind of reading I had been unconsciously hungering for. My nearly-dormant love of nature was awakening.

With the aid of a few books borrowed from friends, and dozens from a nearby library, as well as several fine reference books of my own, I was at last becoming a nature-lover and a beginning bird student. With five young

children to care for, I was, of necessity, more of an arm-chair naturalist than I cared to be, but our back yard compensated for my lack of exploration elsewhere. Slowly, very slowly it seemed to me, I was learning more about the fascinating birds that I had ignored for half a normal lifetime.

Now, after four years, birds are a conscious part of our lives, enriching every day. And our children watch birds too, partly disproving the theory that "birds and kids don't mix."

Our winter days are brightened by the birds that come to eat and drink—the acrobatic Chickadees taking turns at the suet with Downy Woodpeckers, the occasional White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper or Hairy Woodpecker, the beautiful Cardinals which eat on the ground, and the saucy Blue Jays which try to intimidate the other birds as they fly in for their share.

We delight in each new bird we see, and eagerly watch for the arrival of familiar bird acquaintances. On a cold, early, March day it may be a Mourning Dove that rushes away from where it huddled on the ground. Or it may be the Robins, fluffed up to twice their normal size, seemingly in the north too soon, that arouse our sympathy.

We hear the Meadowlark chorus tuning up in the fields just beyond our pasture. The Cardinals, at least ten of them our winter boarders, are in fine whistling form by mid-March and we never tire of hearing their cheery calls. We run out in the rain for a closer look at a Ruby-crowned Kinglet in a peach tree. And on a lovely April afternoon we hurry to the pasture to hear the first Brown Thrasher song of the season delivered from a tree-top.

Some anxiously-awaited, migrating songsters are the White-throated Sparrows. My new neighbor may dash over with, "I hear the White-throats." I usually drop what I am doing and we spend a pleasant half hour in our uncropped pasture listening to their lovely minor melodies. And just at dusk these gentle birds "chink" from the trees and bushes near our house.

Later the Baltimore Orioles flash through our yard. Not for two years has their nest hung in our silver maple, but the rich, mellow whistle is often near. The female oriole is usually willing to use the strings we put out for her nest somewhere in this tree-filled town.

The tiny members of the sprightly wood warbler family fascinate us. We travel in spirit with some of them as they fly on and on to the beautiful north woods where they spend the summer. We catch our breaths as we see Redstarts, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Magnolia Warblers, Golden-winged, Black-throated Greens, Black-and-white, Palm Warblers and others—little midgets I had never before seen.

Several birds spend the summer with us. A tiny nest in the blackberry tangle, a Yellowthroat's we think, was victimized not once but twice, by Cowbirds. It and a Black-billed Cuckoo's nest too closely observed were abandoned. Next time we'll use our binoculars more. The Black-billed Cuckoo would leave the nest at our approach, alight in an apple tree and expel air from its mouth in a kind of hiss. How we wished to see the young cuckoos bristling with their quill-like feather tubes. An Indigo Bunting nest was never found, but our trees and elderberry bushes were singing posts for the little blue beauty. A Brown Thrasher nest in the blackberries was not discovered until the bob-tailed babies were found in the grasses among the trees. And there are always nests of Catbirds, Robins, Blue Jays and Mourning Doves.

When I am recalling pleasant birding moments, I think of the Screech Owl that spent nearly half its winter days one year sunning itself on a limb of a white cedar; the Red-bellied Woodpecker that flew away with a walnut on the end of its bill, to hammer it off on a telephone pole; a Great Blue

Heron flapping over our house, probably heading for the Iowa River 2 miles away; the Killdeer that regularly fly over our house; the Cardinals, ignoring the water-pans they use daily, having a splashing party in melted snow pools in our yard; and the Pheasants and Bobwhite we sometimes hear from the fields beyond our yard.

I like to remember the days the Cardinals were building a nest in a syringa bush only 15 feet from the kitchen windows. Although the lovely male Cardinal didn't assist in nest-building, he was seemingly a morale booster, for he accompanied his mate on each trip, singing at every stop. This nest was blown down in a windstorm before any eggs were laid in it.

One foggy, dripping, May morning a Green Heron flopped into the top of our Chinese elms, paused momentarily then flew on. On a September afternoon a Broad-winged Hawk flew into our elms and rested a moment before leaving.

Housekeeping often takes a back seat as I watch a Yellow-billed Cuckoo emerging slowly from the leaves of an elm just outside the window. Or it may be a splendid Rose-breasted Grosbeak looking around in our treetops, or a Hermit Thrush in the children's yard.

When I review the interesting birding adventures of these few short years, I am determined to make my dream of a bird sanctuary come true. Next year I hope to add more plantings—a honeysuckle here, a flowering-crab there, to mature with the tiny high-bush cranberry. And I want to include more flowers for the birds, to stand with seeds during the winter, such as marigolds, cosmos, zinnias, bachelor-buttons and others. More bird boxes must be put up, and an apartment house for Purple Martins.

As our yard gradually becomes more attractive to birds, I hope to see an increase in the summer and winter bird population and also in the number of species seen. Already in only three years of recording, 85 species have been seen in, or over, our yard. While our bird lists become longer and our knowledge of birds increases, the most exciting bird moments will be added to our storehouse of treasured memories.

Truly, our back yard helped open our eyes to the joys of bird-watching, and the wonder of studying the birds.

REPORT ON THE VINTON CONVENTION

By MYRLE M. BURK

Secy.-Treas., Iowa Ornithologists' Union

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union met for its 36th annual convention, Saturday and Sunday, May 10 and 11, at Vinton, Iowa, as guests of the Red Cedar Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. Headquarters were the Lincoln Junior High School auditorium. More than 100 members and visitors registered; two members who are now living out of the state were welcomed: Dr. Mary Price Roberts, Corona, California, and Dr. Edward L. Kozicky, Godfrey, Illinois.

Field trips on Saturday and Sunday mornings, covering the areas selected by our hosts, yielded a count of 136 species of birds. The most interesting trip included Schlotfeldt's Slough, Red Cedar River at Weymans and Norwoods, Winnegar's Lake, Lime Lake Timber, Judge Tobin's cabin, Minneestema area, Prairie Lake and Dudgeon Lake area.

The program of papers, slides, and films began at 9:30 a.m., May 10. Judge John W. Tobin of Vinton, a long-time member of the Union, welcomed members and guests to the city and to Benton County. John Paul Moore, President, responded. The program proceeded in this order:

Report on Iowa Conservation Education Council, by Dr. George O. Hendrickson.

Some Common Iowa Wild Flowers (slides), by George Worley.

Panel Discussion on Waterfowl, by Dr. Edward Kozicky, Moderator, James Sieh, Peter Petersen, Jr., Harold H. Burgess.

Colored Film on Snakes and Butterflies, by Konnie Yoshinaga.

Bird Identification Game with Slides, by Fred Kent.

Studies with the Redhead Duck at Delta, Manitoba, by Dr. Milton W. Weller.

Luncheon

Colored Movies and Slides on Marsh Hawk and Prothonotary Warbler, by Dr. Robert Vane and Fred Kent.

Your Birding Experiences, open discussion led by Dr. George O. Hendrickson.

"Honkers Prepaid" (film), supplied by Dr. Edw. L. Kozicky.

The banquet was held at 6:30 p.m. in the American Legion hall. Harry Rector, during the welcome, revealed that our President had boyhood aspirations to be a bird rather than a bird-watcher.

The guest speaker, Mr. Allen Duvall, Director of Bird-banding, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland, described experiences and results of bird-banding. He emphasized that of the thousands of birds banded, only those comparatively few from which the aluminum bands bearing the serial numbers are retrieved, are of scientific value. Of particular interest was the return, since 1954, of 76 bands by Russians. The banded birds which had been killed in northeastern Siberia included Pintails, Lesser Snow Geese, Eiders, Lapland Longspurs, Snow Buntings and other species. Of these, 47 had been banded in California; the remainder came from North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, and other states, none from Iowa. Incidentally, the returned bands from Russia aroused the interest of the FBI; some one suspected the bands carried coded messages from the United States to Russia.

The Executive Council and IOU officers held a luncheon meeting Saturday noon. The proposal to co-operate with other conservation organizations contributing to scholarship funds for teachers to attend Springbrook Conservation Camp was not favored because of our diminishing treasury, our expenses having exceeded income during the past two years; with increasing costs of publishing Iowa Bird Life, this state is expected to continue. The proposal that the name of Mrs. Janetta Du Mont, Evanston, Illinois, be presented to the members of the IOU at the annual business meeting for honorary membership met with approval.

The Executive Council named the following members to these committees, Auditing, Dr. Edward L. Kozicky, Chairman; Dr. H. R. Peasley and Dr. A. W. Meyer; Nominating, Dr. Martin Grant, Chairman, Gertrude Weaver and Mrs. John Bottleman; Resolutions, Charles Ayres, Chairman, Judge John Tobin and Mrs. Robert Vane.

Peter Petersen brought the IOU sleeve patches, which have a Goldfinch on a blue background. They sold well at \$1.00 each. There was also an increased demand for check-lists. Nine new memberships were received.

At 3:15 p.m. Saturday, the members of the Union convened for the annual business meeting in the Lincoln Junior school auditorium. John Paul Moore, President, called the meeting to order. He mentioned the resolution made at the fall meeting at Lake Keomah State Park, that the Union support the establishment of a grassland refuge, primarily for the Prairie Chicken, in Nebraska. He also presented the recommendation of the Executive Council that Mrs. Janetta DuMont, Evanston, Illinois, be made an honorary member. Lavina Dragoo made a motion that Wier Mills be made an honorary member also.

The President requested the Secy.-Treasurer's report, which is printed below:

Receipts:

Balance, May 18, 1957	\$ 904.02
Membership dues	
Regular, 297 members	594.00
Junior, 5 members	5.00
Supporting, 13 members	65.00
Contributing, 1 member	10.00
Sale of Check-lists	26.41
Sale of Distribution check-lists	2.50
Sale of Copies of Iowa Bird Life	12.00
Contributions	
Wm. Youngworth, extra cost of printing	20.00
Anonymous donations for cuts	55.00
Reprints, I. B. L.	43.50
Total	\$1,737.43

Expenses:

1957 Convention	\$ 3.80
Postcards and printing, fall meeting 1957	7.80
Postage	10.46
Stationery	12.24
Pay checkbook	2.00
Printing address lists	6.74
Printing reprints	16.41
Publishing Iowa Bird Life	854.59
Total	\$ 914.04
Balance on hand, May 9, 1958	\$ 823.39

Editor Pierce reported that the increased cost of publication of Iowa Bird Life exceeds the moneys obtained from membership dues as shown in the financial report of the Treasurer. He recommended that an effort be made to get more members.

Dr. J. Harold Ennis, Librarian, described the library collection as a depository for the literature of Iowa ornithology. He reported a demand for past issues of Iowa Bird Life and again requested that old issues, not wanted by members, be returned to him. He reported the scarcity and need for the early mimeographed numbers. Dr. Ennis distributed a mimeographed sheet listing the contents of the Library of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union.

Dr. George O. Hendrickson reported on the activity of the Iowa Conservation Education Council and recommended that the Union join the Council. He suggested that a teacher interested in the conservation of birds be appointed to represent the Union on this Council.

James Sieh made a motion that the Executive Council of the IOU request the Des Moines Art Center of Des Moines to use funds to obtain bird paintings by Maynard Reece, the letter to be written by Secretary Burk.

President Moore introduced the controversial question, the proposed legislation that there be an open season on the Mourning Dove. Those who spoke in favor of such legislation were Dr. Edward Kozicky, James Sieh, Bruce Stiles and others; those opposed were Gladys Gray, Mrs. G. Adolph Johnson, Dr. Harold Ennis, Charles Ayres, Jr. and Mrs. Gladys Haskell, supported by a goodly number of silent but opposed members. Mrs. Haskell made a motion that the Union go on record as opposed to the shooting of the Mourning Dove. It was seconded by Mrs. G. Adolph Johnson, Charles

C. Ayres, Jr. requested that a vote be taken by ballot. The vote as counted was: Aye, 40; nay, 17; not voting, 1. The business meeting was then adjourned until Sunday afternoon.

Following the Sunday field trip, the bird-watchers were served a sumptuous luncheon by members of the Red Cedar Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. After luncheon there was a continuation of the unfinished business meeting of the previous day.

Dr. A. W. Meyer, in the absence of Dr. Kozicky, reported for the Auditing Committee. He reported that the Secy.-Treasurer's books were in excellent order. He moved that the Secretary's report be accepted.

Mrs. Robert Vane presented the report of the Resolutions Committee.

Dr. Martin Grant, chairman of the Nominating Committee recommended the unanimous re-election of all present officers. It was moved by Bruce Stiles that nominations be closed and the Secretary be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot.

The President read letters of greeting from Howard F. Graesing, Spirit Lake, and Dennis Carter, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. Mr. Graesing reported several cases of albinism, among them a magpie in Colorado, and a pheasant and a grackle in Iowa. Dennis Carter suggested that when unusual birds were seen on IOU field trips, more specific data be recorded, such as the name or names of observers and the type of locality.

President Moore called for invitations or suggestions for the location of the next spring meeting. Mrs. Peasley favored the McGregor area, Dr. Vane the Keokuk area, and several spoke of meeting in southwestern Iowa because it is new territory and a meeting there might interest more people. Membership is sparse in that area with the exception of Shenandoah and Clarinda.

Secretary Burk reported the present supply of checklists as almost sold out and asked for revisions and additions to the present list, as well as criticism. Although no vote was taken, strong agreement prevailed that the new check-lists be printed on a 3x5 card rather than the present 4x6.

Wayne Partridge invited the Union to Lake Keomah State Park for the fall meeting. The invitation was accepted.

Dr. Martin L. Grant was moderator of the compilation of the birds seen; 132 birds were seen Sunday morning, May 11; four additional birds were seen on Saturday.

Resolutions. — Be it resolved by the Iowa Ornithologists' Union:

1) That a hearty thank-you be extended to the Red Cedar Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, and especially to the president, Jack Bloodgood, for their hospitality and arrangements for the 1958 convention.

2) That further thanks be extended to the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion for preparing the Saturday evening banquet; to the Vinton Chamber of Commerce; to the Iowa State Conservation Commission officers, and especially Mr. Bruce Stiles, for their help.

3) That all who gave of their time and talent for the Saturday program be commended.

4) Be it further resolved that all members be encouraged to search out new members for the IOU, or if possible, to raise their classification of membership to help defray the cost of publication of Iowa Bird Life.

5) That special thanks be tendered Mr. Earnest Steffen of Cedar Rapids for the display of his bird paintings in Vinton business establishments.

6) That thanks be extended to Albert Berkowitz for the printing of the programs.

Charles C. Ayres, Jr., Chairman
John Tobin
Mrs. Robert Vane

Attendance Register. — AMES, Dr. Paul Errington, Dr. and Mrs. G. O. Hendrickson, Dr. Milton W. Weller; ANKENY, F. A. Heidelbauer; BURT, Harold H. Burgess; CEDAR FALLS, Madeline Carpenter, Dr. Martin Grant, Mrs. Oren Paine, Mrs. Florence Spring, Mrs. Charles Schwanke, Maxine Schwanke, George W. Worley; CEDAR RAPIDS, Lavinia Dragoo, Eleanore Fullerton, Dr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Meyer, Lillian Serbousek, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Steffen, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Vane, Pauline Wershofen, Myra G. Willis; DAVENPORT, Thomas Morrissey, Peter Petersen, Jr.; DECORAH, Mrs. B. T. Henning, Mrs. Tom Henning, Mrs. A. C. Lynch; DES MOINES, Duane E. De Kock, Lester F. Faber, Gladys Gray, Mrs. Lester Haskell, Mrs. G. A. Johnson, John Madson, Dr. and Mrs. H. R. Peasley, Mary E. Peck, Bruce F. Stiles, Mary Ellen Wartens; ESTHERVILLE, Loren Jones, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Jones; GRUNDY CENTER, Mrs. Harold B. Brown; INDEPENDENCE, Florence L. Kane; INDIANOLA, Paul Leaverton; IOWA CITY, F. W. Kent; LA PORTE CITY, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hawkins; LEHIGH, Dean Roosa; MANLY, Miss Patt Lake; MARION, Robert Liljedahl; MASON CITY, Milford D. Keeler; MOUNT VERNON, Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Ennis, Marie Berry, Bessie B. Scobey, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Strickland, Leon A. Thomsen, Tim Thomsen; NEWTON, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Moore, Lucile McMurray, Konnie Yoshinaga; NORTHWOOD, Mrs. John Bottleman; OSKALOOSA, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne F. Partridge; OTTUMWA, Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Ayres, Jr.; REINBECK, Mrs. John Ehlers; SIOUX CITY, Enola Downard, Mr. and Mrs. Darrell M. Hanna, Gertrude Weaver; SPIRIT LAKE, Jim Sieh; TITONKA, Thomas Burgess; TRIPOLI, Dorothy Brunner; UNION, Mrs. Elvin Adams, Mrs. Howard E. Clemens; VINTON, Glenn Angell, Myrl Brown, E. H. Dowden, Mrs. L. E. Eggleston, Cecil R. Fry, Mrs. Dallas Gibson, Glenn F. Heady, Paul D. Kline, Hildred Meyer, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rector, Mrs. John Strawn, Jr., Judge John Tobin; WATERLOO, Myrle M. Burk, Helen Hawkins, Russell Hays, Margaret Nagle, Pearl Rader; WAVERLY, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Ryder; WHEATLAND, C. Esther Copp; WINTHROP, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Pierce; CORONA, CALIF., Mary Price Roberts; GODFREY, ILLINOIS, Dr. Edw. Kozicky; LAUREL, MARYLAND, Allen Duvall. Total registered, 105.

Composite List of Birds Seen on the Field Trip, May 11, 1958. — Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue and Green Herons, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, Red-tailed, Broad-winged, Marsh and Sparrow Hawks, Bald Eagle, Bobwhite, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sora, Am. Coot, Semipalmated and Am. Golden Plovers, Killdeer, Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral, Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Dowitcher, Black Tern, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos, Screech, Great Horned and Barred Owls, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-thr. Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Red-bellied, Red-headed, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested, Traill's, Least and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree, Bank, Rough-winged and Barn Swallows, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House and Carolina Wrens, Mockingbird, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Swainson's and Gray-checked Thrushes, Veery, Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos, Black-and-white, Prothonotary, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Palm and Wilson's Warblers, Ovenbird, Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes, Yellowthroat, Am. Redstart, Bobolink, Eastern and Western Mea-

dowlarks, Redwinged Blackbird, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, Am. Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, House, Savannah, Grasshopper, Vesper, Lark, Chipping, Clay-colored, Field, Harris', White-crowned, White-throated, Lincoln's, Swamp and Song Sparrows. Total, 132.

Additional Birds Seen on Saturday, May 10, 1918 — Upland Plover, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rusty Blackbird, Slate-colored Junco.

GENERAL NOTES

A Sight Record of Sprague's Pipit. — On May 4, 1958 Mrs. Brown and I were with Albert Berkowitz at Brenton's Slough, northwest of Des Moines. This area is quite rolling and some of the higher parts will usually produce horned larks and, at times, pipits. We had seen several horned larks and were looking for pipits when we sighted one only a few feet from the car. The bird was not disturbed when we stopped and we had ample opportunity to observe it closely. We noted the following points: over-all color, grayish; back, streaked; under-chin area, buffy; collar extending across throat, white; band of dark streaks across upper part of breast; belly and flanks, white with no streaks; legs, light, color of dead grass. The bird stayed within very close range for what must have been several minutes and at no time did it wag its tail. From all indications this was a Sprague's Pipit which is considered an accidental or straggler in Iowa. The area where we found this bird is the one from which a Sprague's Pipit was reported at the time of the 1954 IOU field trip. — WOODWARD H. BROWN, 4815 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

A Record of the Sandhill Crane in Iowa.—Any record of this species in Iowa is sufficiently uncommon that possibly it might be delineated in detail.

On Sunday afternoon, April 27, 1958, Mrs. Ennis and I drove to Muskrat Slough in Cedar County for a brief inspection. We stopped our car at the entrance parking lot, and from that vantage point scanned the marsh for waterfowl. There were many Coots and only a few scattered pairs of Blue-winged Teal, Gadwalls, and Am. Widgeons in sight. In a few minutes a mixed flock of Blue and Snow Geese flew in from a southerly direction and circled over the south-western portion of the marsh. Finally they settled near the west central marsh margin.



SANDHILL CRANE AT MUSKRAT SLOUGH, MAY 9, 1958 (F. W. Kent photo)



SANDHILL CRANE, MAY 9, 1958 (F. W. Kent photo)

Since this spot was not far from the lane that circles that portion of the marsh, we decided to attempt a closer approach. To our pleasant surprise the geese tolerated our slowly moving car, and our portable blind came to rest within about 50 yards of the flock. Here Mrs. Ennis and I kept our binoculars on the birds for at least 30 minutes. It was without doubt the best opportunity I had ever had to see Blue and Snow Geese at relatively close range in east central Iowa. The flock contained 30 "Snows" and 14 "Blues."

While I was observing the slight variation in the plumage of individual Blue Geese, Mrs. Ennis mentioned two or three times a "larger bird" beyond the geese and in the marsh margin. I had assumed it was a Great Blue Heron because they are not uncommon about the marsh. Finishing with the geese, I started hunting for "her bird" and finally located it. Only the neck and head were showing above the marsh grass, but the binocular clearly showed that the head and mandibles were not those of the Great Blue Heron. In fact, the size of the bird and the shape of its bill could only suggest a Sandhill Crane!

My only other view of a Sandhill Crane was in Indiana when, in company with Dr. Robert Vane and Fred Kent, we saw a small flock at a considerable distance on a state reserve.

However, after watching this bird for ten minutes I was completely convinced of my identification. Then, to my surprise, both the crane and geese apparently became alarmed at something beyond us to the north. At any rate all flew toward the car. I opened the car door to obtain a better view of the crane and it then veered off to the west. The outstretched neck of the crane was quite apparent.

Fortunately for me, the Cornell students declared the next day, Monday, a "skip day." (Not, of course, for this unusual ornithological treat, but part of their customary Spring pattern.) Consequently I returned in the morning to the marsh with two students, Donald Rhoads and Dean Power.

We found the crane in almost the same spot that Mrs. Ennis and I had observed it the day previously. On this occasion the bird allowed an even closer approach, and we were able to observe with ease the color on its head and some of its other features. Mr. and Mrs. Kent and Dr. and Mrs. Laude from Iowa City, who had been notified by phone the previous evening, drove up in their car. The added number of observers did not appear to alarm the crane. Although the sky was overcast, Mr. Kent was able to obtain some pictures with his camera and telescope.

This concluded my own observations, but Mr. Kent returned on May 9 and again saw the bird. Other trips failed to locate it.

It might also be mentioned that all parties on April 28 saw a White-fronted Goose on the marsh with the Snow and Blue Geese flock.—J. HAROLD ENNIS, Cornell College, Mount Vernon, Iowa.

Spring Migration Notes, Northeastern Iowa. — On March 29, 1958, I recorded my first Hooded Mergansers for the Black Hawk Creek area, near Waterloo. As I walked along the railroad near the creek, two ducks flew up right into the morning sun, circled, and flew back over me. I had a fine view of these mergansers.

I made a visit to Sweet Marsh, near Tripoli, on March 23, 1958, and among the birds listed were these: Cooper's Hawk, 1; Rough-legged Hawk, 1; Common Goldeneye, 4; Mallard, 150; Pintail, 40; Herring Gull, 2; Killdeer, 1. A second trip to Sweet Marsh on March 30 added these birds: Gadwall, 2; Baldpate, 6; Blue-winged Teal, 10; Ring-necked Duck, 2; Lesser Scaup, 6; Canvasback, 1; Bufflehead, 3; Common Egret, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Tree Swallow. A third trip to Sweet Marsh was made on April 13, when hundreds of ducks of several species were seen, as well as 14 Pied-billed Grebes and perhaps 1,000 American Coots. On this trip I saw a lone Osprey, 40 Double-crested Cormorants, and a pair of Black Ducks.

I was in the field a good deal during the warbler migration, and May 14 and 15 proved to be the peak days for heavy flights. I found Martin Woods near Fletcher Ave. in Waterloo filled with warblers from one end to the other. On the 14th I listed 21 warblers and 22 on the 15th. Included were Canada, Blue-winged, Bay-breasted and Connecticut. I was standing in the doorway of a small building, using it as a blind, when I heard a loud and unusual song. Stepping quickly outside, I turned to the right and not over 10 feet away and at eye level was the Connecticut. I noted the white eye ring very distinctly. I watched the bird for some time and enjoyed its loud, vigorous song. On May 25, I saw my first Cerulean Warbler. I heard a distinctive song in the top of a tall tree. After a short search I spotted a warbler with a narrow band across the upper breast; under parts were white and it had a light bluish back. After a few minutes of study I was sure of the identification. — RUSSELL HAYS, 825 Franklin St., Waterloo, Iowa.

Lark Bunting Record near Ogden. — On the morning of May 15, 1958, as I was driving my tractor out to the field, I saw a Lark Bunting. It flew up from the ground to a wire fence, then it flew a short distance away and I had opportunity to see the white wing-patches which showed very plainly on the dark black bird. As in the case of many birds, it seemed unafraid of my tractor which enabled me to approach within 15 feet of it. It would sit a short while, then get nervous and fly a short way to again light on the fence. I observed it for 15 minutes, but field work was pressing and I had to leave it, reluctantly. I was working in a nearby field and saw it several times afterward. It would fly from the grass to the fence and back again; presumably it was feeding on the ground. I last sighted it at about 11:00 a.m. I had added a new bird to my Iowa list and it was a thrill indeed. — JIM KEENAN, Ogden, Iowa.

The Lark Bunting in Northwest Iowa.—The writer has long been interested in prairie bird life, which has vanished or is in the process of vanishing in Iowa. One of these vanishing birds is the strikingly marked black and white Lark Bunting. One of the last records for the Lark Bunting in the extreme northwest corner of the state was made by Dr. George Hendrickson who reported a few birds in Lyon County. Thirty years have passed since that day in 1928. Since then I have been looking for Lark Buntings in Iowa.

On May 24, 1958, I decided to make a special trip to Lyon County. We (wife and I) crossed the Big Sioux River at Canton, South Dakota, and turned left on the first section road. Our luck was almost too good to be true, for almost at once we heard a male Lark Bunting singing and near by was the female.

We proceeded slowly by car, with both of us watching. After zigzagging back and forth from Inwood to Larchwood and to Gitchie Manitou State Park, we didn't see or hear another Lark Bunting. The park area was well scouted and the return trip was made along the hills above the Big Sioux River, but it was all in vain. We did discover, however, how common the Vesper Sparrow was in Lyon County. Every one we saw was studied with binoculars as we tried to pick out another female Lark Bunting. This observation was interesting, because while we saw plenty of Vesper Sparrows, Lark Sparrows were almost absent. Just 80 miles south, at Sioux City, the Lark Sparrow is a common summer bird, but the Vesper Sparrow is not.

It would seem from our trip that the Lark Bunting cannot stand intensified farming and must have more grassland for its summer home. It is probably just a matter of a few years until this charming bird will be but a pleasant memory to the students of Iowa bird life.—WILLIAM YOUNG-WORTH, 3119 East Second St., Sioux City, Iowa.

Ten Thousand Cedar Waxwings, One Bohemian. — For some 15 winters in Warner Robins, Georgia, I made careful observations with binoculars of at least 10,000 Cedar Waxwings as they lined the rims of our two bird baths and almost in unison dipped their bills and drank, or perched by the hundreds in neat little rows on power or telephone lines.

An abundant supply of the purple berries of the privet hedge and ligustrum provided ample food. In the winter of 1954-55 we had a tremendous concentration of waxwings. We called it the winter of the "purple tide," as the ground was completely covered with the purple droppings much to the delight of the Purple Finches which harvested the windfall of seeds in the droppings. They neatly cracked the seeds and extracted the kernels.*

My late husband, Wayne, and I shared a devotion for the waxwings and Purple Finches. This devotion was not shared by the neighbors! Even my enthusiasm was dampened a bit when my absent-minded parking habits forced me to wash our car twice in one day.

Day after day and winter after winter I checked and double-checked. A rare Western Tanager, yes! ** A Bohemian, no!

Though considering it hopeless, I had even checked the breeding waxwings here in Iowa. In the summer of 1941 I shot a snake in two as it invaded our waxwing nest in an old box elder tree while our waxwings screamed in terror. The tail-end of the snake promptly fell to the ground and the head-end and I had a near collision in midair as I went up the ladder to determine the damage done. No Bohemian!

* Black, Mrs. Gladys B. 1957. Unusual Feeding Habits of the Purple Finch. Oriole, 22 (2): 18-19.

** ——— 1956. A Western Tanager at Warner Robins, Georgia, Oriole, 21 (3): 25-26.

During the summer of 1957 the waxwings very obligingly flew into our sour cherry tree as I precariously perched there picking cherries. Observations were at a distance of 3 feet. Still no Bohemian (In my opinion there is only one pleasant thing about picking cherries, and that is the birds one meets face to face in the tree top!)

As an out-of-town member of the Des Moines Audubon Society I was delighted with an invitation from Mrs. A. J. Binsfeld to join her group of observers and assist with the 1957 Christmas Bird Count (Dec. 21) in the Des Moines City Waterworks Park, a place of rare beauty at all seasons.

A check of the eastern portion of the crabapple orchard had been completed, with a flock of Cedar Waxwings observed as well as many other species including a White-winged Crossbill. We moved on to the western section of the crabapple orchard. Mrs. Marsha Nicholson, Miss Ruth Dallinger, and Mrs. Gladys Nicholson stayed on the road and I cut across to the center of the orchard and began moving east. Halfway down the length of the orchard I sighted our waxwings eating crabapples and, moving in slowly, I got the surprise of my life. There was my Bohemian Waxwing in all his beauty! I got my three lady companions over there as quickly as I could and they confirmed my identification. We observed the bird carefully for 15 minutes before the entire flock flew back to the east orchard. Mrs. Binsfeld, our leader, who had been checking Glendale Cemetery, joined us there just after we had again sighted our Bohemian with the Cedar Waxwings; all of us enjoyed a full half hour of close observation.

Since the Bohemian Waxwing has shown up on only two (1947, 1953) of the past 20 Christmas bird census, we were indeed privileged to observe a Bohemian in full adult plumage at close range.

Here in Marion County I had never observed the Cedar Waxwing during the winter until January 17, 1958, when a group of three were observed eating persimmons. Since we have only two persimmon trees in Pleasantville and both within a block of my home, I began checking both of these trees daily. I observed the following numbers of waxwings on these dates: 20 on Jan. 18; 32 on Jan. 19; 26 on Jan. 20; 1 on Jan. 30; 17 on Jan. 31; 16 on Feb. 1; 12 on Feb. 2; 12 on Feb. 3; 4 on Feb. 5; none thereafter. — MRS. GLADYS B. BLACK, 608 DeWitt St., Pleasantville, Iowa.

Swainson's Hawk Records in 1957. — The increasing number of Swainson's Hawk records in Iowa would seem to indicate that this species is becoming more numerous in the state, although it is possible it has just been overlooked. I had never seen Swainson's Hawk until I found it nesting in Cass and Pottawattamie counties in 1956. However, in 1957 I obtained the following records for central and north-central Iowa. All birds were carefully identified.

Emmet County: I saw two circling over Ingham Lake, High Lake Township on August 21.

Hamilton County: I obtained my first record for central Iowa on April 28, when I observed one soaring low over a pasture and wooded area east of the Riverside Bible Camp in section 31 of Scott Township. Peter C. Petersen, Jr. and I saw one again on May 5, and I observed two individuals in the same locality on May 12 and one on May 26. I suspect that a pair of Swainson's Hawks was nesting in the area, but I found no nest and was unable to continue my observations through the summer months.

Hancock County: On May 30, Peter C. Petersen, Jr. and I saw an individual on the east side of highway 60 about 3 miles north of Corwith. We were able to get quite close to the bird before it flew.

Humboldt County: I saw a Swainson's Hawk about 1 mile west of Hardy on May 17. Peter C. Petersen, Jr. and I observed one just west of Foster's

Bridge (Grove Township, section 10) on May 30.

Kossuth County: Harold H. Burgess, Peter C. Petersen, Jr., and I saw one at the Union Slough Refuge on May 30.

An adult Swainson's Hawk (normal phase) is not difficult to identify. In flight when seen from below, the light wing-linings which contrast with the dark flight feathers are a good field mark. Another field mark that I have found useful is the whitish rump which is not as well defined as the white mark at the base of the tail of Rough-legged and Marsh Hawks. The brown chest contrasting with the white throat is also a good mark, particularly when the bird is on a perch. I have noted that the Swainson's Hawk is less wary than most buteos and often allows close approach before it takes flight.—DENNIS L. CARTER, 408 South Prairie Ave., Fairmont, Minnesota.

Data on Banding Cardinals.—Between May 12, 1954, and February 6, 1958, 15 Cardinals have been banded at Fort Defiance State Park. Not more than three have ever been seen here at one time.

One adult male banded on May 25, 1954 was retaken February 5, 1958. Another adult female banded May 17, 1956, returned March 17, 1957, and February 5, 1958. There have been no other returns even though three others were banded in 1954, one in 1955, four in 1956, and six in 1957.

Even though trapping has been carried on at rather frequent intervals near the custodian's residence only one Cardinal was retrapped as a repeat (retaken under three months). Every effort was made at least once a year during the winter months to trap all the birds present at the feeding station. However banded Cardinals were caught only twice. On the 1956 January "big day," 17 Chickadee returns were obtained.

We have no evidence of having had the same pair of Cardinals any two consecutive seasons. The question arises as to whether the average length of life of the Cardinal is less here in the northwest fringe of its range than farther south or east.

One Cardinal at the Ledges State Park proved itself to be a steady customer by being retrapped 14 times. Having been banded May 4, 1947, he returned April 7, 1948; February 13, 1949; February 17, 1950; October 12, 1950; and March 3, 1952; all this besides being retrapped nine times in between returns. In fact, it was trapped nine times in April and May of 1948. Of the Cardinals banded at the Ledges, 10 individuals provided 14 return records and 22 repeat records.—M. L. JONES, Fort Defiance State Park, Estherville, Iowa.

A Convenient Sparrow Hawk Abode.—In the spring of 1956 we were hosts to a pair of Sparrow Hawks which selected a most convenient location for their season's housekeeping activities. The nest was placed between bales of hay stacked across an open doorway of the barn.

The birds first came to my attention sometime in March. For a few days during the migration period, Sparrow Hawks suddenly became abundant and conspicuous along the roads with their noisy cries. I would notice one or two birds perched on the utility lines in front of our farm buildings. Then one evening at dusk I happened to see a Sparrow Hawk fly directly to the side of the barn and disappear. Did it roost in those hay bales, or could it possibly have a nest there? Next day I decided to carefully remove the bales one by one and see what could be found. There, under the upper layer of bales, were three eggs in an empty space just large enough for a Sparrow Hawk to squeeze into. Very little material had been used actually to construct a nest.

I did not watch the birds too closely or inspect the nest very often for fear of their abandoning it. I did remove the top bales about every

four or five days to observe the eggs and young birds. At no time did I ever find one of the old birds in the nest.

During all this time a casual observer would never have suspected the presence of a nest here at all. Generally of an evening one Sparrow Hawk could be seen sitting quietly on the utility wires in front of the barn—no comings and goings to the nest. Even after the young were hatched the adults could seldom be seen carrying in food.

But no announcement was needed to know when the young hawks left their nest. At dawn on June 14 a noisy clamor could be heard from the top of the 40-ft. spruce tree in our front lawn. There on the topmost sprigs were the three young Sparrow Hawks. They clung there precariously throughout the day. Any time we approached the tree it was certain to bring one or both of the adults circling and swooping with a great outcry. The second day out for the young birds was spent in a shade tree 30 rods down the road. The third day out of the nest the whole family had moved down the road three-fourths of a mile to the next farm, where some dead maples near the utility wires provided good perching for inexperienced youngsters. They stayed there about a week before gradually scattering.—J. DONALD GILLASPEY, Route 3, Lamoni, Iowa.

Water Pipit at Lamoni.—It was my privilege to hear the spring song of the Water Pipit while plowing on April 27, 1957. I stopped the tractor about 25 feet from one of the birds to observe it more closely with binoculars. It suddenly started singing right there on the ground in front of me, giving continuous bubbling notes of pleasing sound and of surprising volume, all seemingly without effort. In duration the song was six to eight times that of a Meadowlark and in volume loud enough to be clearly heard above the purr of the idling tractor. Three of the Pipits were observed on April 27 and on May 2, 6, 7, and 8 in a field of cornstalks being disced down and plowed. They returned in the autumn. From October 13 to 21, 1957, we had about 50 Pipits in a closely mowed alfalfa field.—J. DONALD GILLASPEY, Route 3, Lamoni, Iowa.

Cuckoos as Highway Victims—From casual observation, cuckoos seem to be next to woodpeckers on the highway casualty list on some of our country roads in southern Iowa. This is particularly noticeable on those roads bordered with brush and small trees. It may be that the birds are struck as they fly low in the air ahead of an auto, or fly from the bushes on one side of the road to the other side as an auto approaches. I have observed them flying in this manner but have never struck one. Or, possibly, the cuckoos are resting or feeding on the roadway and hit as are woodpeckers and doves. Some other observer may have more exact information on this. Further observation might also disclose whether it is the Yellow-billed Cuckoo or the Black-billed Cuckoo which most frequently becomes the victim of the speeding automobile.—J. DONALD GILLASPEY, Route 3, Lamoni, Iowa.

Mockingbird Record for Plymouth County.—The occurrence of the Mockingbird in this area may be on about a five- or ten-year basis. The last time I found a nesting pair was in 1942, on the J. A. Sturtevant farm in Plymouth County. This is only a few miles from the spot where on May 14, 1958, I found a pair of Mockingbirds apparently nesting in a dense, wild-plum thicket along a former state highway, now unused. The male bird took off in a wild flight of song, soon to be followed by the female. They usually landed in an open field and perched on clods. I never disturb a bird nest unnecessarily and did not search for the nest. On May 16 and again on May 20 I noticed that the birds flew from the same thicket and acted in much the same manner.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, 3119 East Second St., Sioux City, Iowa.

NECROLOGY

Mrs. Toni R. Wendelburg was among a small group of bird students who went to Ames on February 28, 1923 to help organize the Iowa Ornithologists' Union. She thus became a Charter Member.

Mrs. Wendelburg died of a stroke in Des Moines May 13, 1958, at the age of 90. Burial was in Glendale Cemetery in that city. Surviving were three daughters, Mrs. Ray E. Sterrett of Des Moines; Mrs. Hertha Black of Denver, Colorado; Mrs. Vilma Shaffer of Phoenix, Arizona; and one son, Alfred Wendelburg, Miles City Montana.



Mrs. Wendelburg

Born at Ottawa, Illinois, she graduated from the former Milwaukee Seminary at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and came to Des Moines in 1905 to become teacher of the first girls' physical education classes at the old West High School. She also taught German there. She was a teacher in the city schools for 28 years, until her retirement in 1933.

Mrs. Wendelburg was an alert and ardent conservationist who never missed an opportunity to lecture on her favorite subject to large or small groups. She had the happy faculty of being able to communicate her love of birds and flowers to persons of all ages. As a teacher in elementary schools she brought nature into her classrooms and opened many a youngster's eyes to the wonders of the nature world. She supported vigorously the activities of local bird clubs and conducted bird hikes for many years.

Among society affiliations she was a Charter Member of the Des Moines Audubon Society and its secretary for ten years, a member of the National Audubon Society, a past president of the Des Moines Garden Club, a board member of Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, and had been a regional director and guardian for the Camp Fire Girls. In 1955 she received first prize for an essay, "Conservation in a Land of Plenty," from the National Council of State Garden Clubs. She also held the Honor Award of Iowa State Horticultural Society, its highest award, and was elected an Honorary Member of both the Iowa Ornithologists' Union and Des Moines Audubon Society. Instrumental in helping the Des Moines Audubon Society secure a 10-year lease on a 3-acre wooded area, it was a great satisfaction to her to have this tract, which joined her home, turned into a bird sanctuary; she conducted nature tours for Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Junior Gardeners, Audubon Society members and various other groups on the area. In charge of ticket sales for the Audubon screen tours, she displayed remarkable selling ability coupled with fine bookkeeping accuracy in spite of advancing years. The Audubon Society's exhibits at the State Fair were always interesting and attractive, through her artistic taste and tireless efforts.

Mrs. Wendelburg's home on 28th street was the delight of her friends, who called it "an orderly wilderness." On an acre of ground the large, rustic house was set well back from the street, almost obscured in the heavy woodland surrounding it. The area included hills and deep valleys, with upward of 30 species of trees and innumerable flowers of both wild and planted varieties. Botany students from Drake University often visited it to collect specimens which were there in abundance.

The Editor cherishes the memory of a visit to her home with Myrle Jones during State Fair week a few years ago. One day we drove out to her home, visited there for a while, then took her out to dinner. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, in the company of a charming and gracious lady.—F. J. P.